

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00

FMC-02 /049 W

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R 181340Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1798

INFO COMMANDANT USCG WASHDC

COMMANDER ATLANTIC AREA USCG NEW YORK NY

UNCLAS OSLO 2520

DEPT PASS COAST GUARD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EWWT, ETRN, NO

SUBJ: AMVER AWARDS

REF: (A) STATE A-2088; (B) MACDONALD GUNDERSEN TELECON MAY 1.

1. THIS CABLE CONFIRMS TELECON BETWEEN FSO GUNDERSEN-COMMANDER MACDONALD CHIEF, INFORMATION SYSTEMS DIVISION, COAST GUARD, ATLANTIC AREA.
2. EMBASSY DELIGHTED TO ASSIST WITH PRESENTATIONS OF ANNUAL AMVER AWARDS. NORWEGIAN SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION HAS GENEROUSLY OFFERED

TO CO-HOST RECEPTION AT ITS EXPENSE. GUEST LIST WOULD INCLUDE AWARD WINNERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM MARITIME DIRECTORATE, FOREIGN MINISTRY, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SHIPPING, NORWEGIAN NAVY, RESCUE SERVICE, MARITIME TRADE UNION AND OTHERS THAT EITHER COAST GUARD OR SHIPOWNERSASSOCIATION MAY SUGGEST.

3. EMBASSY SUGGESTS WEEK OF AUGUST 30 TO SEPT 4 TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION AND PUBLICITY. MOST NORWEGIANS WILL BE ON VACATION BEFORE MID-AUGUST AND NEW MARITIME MUSEUM WHICH WILL BE USED FOR RECEPTION IS UNAVAILABLE DURING SUMMER MONTHS. EMBASSY UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE FULL SUPPORT AFTER MID-AUGUST.

FSO JON GUNDERSEN, WHO WAS CONTROL OFFICER FOR LAST AMVER AWARDS PRESENTATION, WOULD BE CONTROL OFFICER FOR PRESENTATION DURING WEEK SUGGESTED.

4. BECAUSE OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 1975 CEREMONY AND VISIT OF VADM REA, BERGE ISTRA TRAGEDY, SUBSEQUENT AWARDING OF ST. OLAV MEDAL (NORWAY'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD) TO COMMANDANT OF US COAST GUARD, AND FREQUENT FAVORABLE PUBLICITY ABOUT AMVER IN NORWEGIAN PRESS, THERE IS GREAT NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN AMVER SYSTEM. NORWEGIAN MARITIME DIRECTORATE HAS PROPOSED THAT MEMBERSHIP IN AMVER BE MADE MANDATORY FOR ALL NORWEGIAN SHIPS. SINCE "BERGE ISTRA" TRAGEDY NORWAY'S ROGALAND RADIO STATION IS RECEIVING TWICE AS MANY POSITION REPORTS FROM NORWEGIAN SHIPS, ALMOST 2,000 PER MONTH, MAKING IT MOST ACTIVE STATION AFTER LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR IN AMVER SYSTEM. NORWAY FOR FIRST TIME WILL ALSO HAVE MORE AWARD WINNERS THAN ANY OTHER NATION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. IN VIEW OF THIS GREAT NORWEGIAN INTEREST AND FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR US COAST GUARD AND US IN GENERAL, EMBASSY SUGGESTS MAXIMUM COAST GUARD PARTICIPATION IN 1976 AMVER PROGRAM IN NORWAY, IF POSSIBLE AT LEVEL OF COMMANDANT. (SINCE ADM. OWEN SILER HAS RECEIVED PRESTIGIOUS ST. OLAV MEDAL HIGH RANKING NORWEGIAN NAVAL OFFICERS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO COMBINE AMVER CEREMONY WITH POSSIBLE THANK YOU CALL BY ADMIRAL SILER ON KING OLAV V. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF DATE BETWEEN AUGUST 30 AND SEPTEMBER 4 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. VISIT CAN BE COORDINATED WITH AMVER CEREMONY IN LONDON.

ANDERS

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